

## ACHS SUMMARY FORM

M-10-74

(date entered 5-4-80)

1. Name: Thomas Grunwell House

(Grimmel)

2. Planning Area/Site Number: 10/74

3. M-NCPPC Atlas Reference: Map 5  
L-2

4. Address: 17801 Comus Road, Dickerson

## 5. Classification Summary

Category buildingOwnership privatePublic Acquisition N/AStatus occupiedAccessible noPresent use private residencePrevious Survey Recording M-NCPPCTitle and Date: 1976 Inventory of  
Historical SitesFederal      State x County x Local     

6. Date: c. 1870

7. Original Owner: Sarah Pearre' Grunwell

## 8. Apparent Condition

a. excellentb. alteredc. original site

9. Description: This is a three-bay farmhouse, untypical of others in the area. The door is in the southeast bay, and a one-story wing extends east from this corner. The first story across this main (south) facade is shaded by an open porch with squared columns. Windows are six-over-six, and there are molded architraves around each of them. The cornice is returned, and there are pairs of half-sized windows in each gable end. A pair of large chimneys emerge from the center of the roof ridge. The present siding is aluminum.

A barn and other buildings are nearby.

10. Significance: Situated picturesquely at the foot of Sugarloaf Mountain, the Thomas Grunwell house is associated with the Pearre' family, early plantation owners and prominent citizens for generations (see William Pearre' farm 10/73) in the Sugarloaf Mountain area. James Pearre' owned large land holdings by the mid-18th century and his great grandson William, Sr., a prominent farmer, bequeathed this property to his wife Catherine at his death in 1864. William's daughter Sarah Ellen, bought the home farm and mansion that year. She probably lived with her mother at the home farm until marrying Thomas Grunwell c. 1870. They constructed the Grunwell farmhouse at that time. The couple lived in the house until 1895 when the farm was sold to Claude O. Cooley. The property remained in the Cooley family until 1945. It has had two owners since.

11. Researcher and date researched: Mark Walston-7/79

Michael Dwyer  
Arch. Description

12. Compiler: Gail Rothrock

13. Date Compiled: 10/79

14. Designation  
Approval     

15. Acreage: 126.8407 acres

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: 10/74  
Magi #

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Thomas Grunwell House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

17801 Comus Road

CITY, TOWN

Dickerson

☒ VICINITY OF

Comus

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

☐ DISTRICT

☒ BUILDING(S)

☐ STRUCTURE

☐ SITE

☐ OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

☐ PUBLIC

☒ PRIVATE

☐ BOTH

**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**

☐ IN PROCESS

☐ BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

☒ OCCUPIED

☐ UNOCCUPIED

☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

**ACCESSIBLE**

☐ YES: RESTRICTED

☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED

☒ NO

**PRESENT USE**

☐ AGRICULTURE

☐ COMMERCIAL

☐ EDUCATIONAL

☐ ENTERTAINMENT

☐ GOVERNMENT

☐ INDUSTRIAL

☐ MILITARY

☐ MUSEUM

☐ PARK

☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE

☐ RELIGIOUS

☐ SCIENTIFIC

☐ TRANSPORTATION

☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Canfield Hines c/o W. Baldwin Buchanan Telephone #: 986-0600

STREET & NUMBER

7101 Wisconsin Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Bethesda

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 20034

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #: 3335

Folio #: 419

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

MNCPPC Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☒ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Park Historian's Office

CITY, TOWN

Derwood

STATE

Maryland 20855

## 7 DESCRIPTION

M.10-74

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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### DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a three-bay farmhouse, untypical of others in the area. The door is in the southeast bay, and a one-story wing extends east from this corner. The first story across this main (south) facade is shaded by an open porch with squared columns. Windows are six-over-six, and there are molded architraves around each of them. The cornice is returned, and there are pairs of half-sized windows in each gable end. A pair of large chimneys emerge from the center of the roof ridge. The present siding is aluminum.

A barn and other buildings are nearby.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Local History	

SPECIFIC DATES c. 1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Thomas Grunwell house, situated on Comus Road near Sugarloaf Mountain, was originally associated with the Pearré family, large land holders in and around the Sugarloaf area. The property was a portion of the estate of William Pearré, Sr. Pearré died in 1864, bequeathing to his wife, Catharine, "one hundred acres of land, laid off so as to include the mansion (sic)," with the residue of the estate to be divided amongst the children.<sup>1</sup> His home farm, 331 acres lying partly in Frederick and partly in Montgomery County, was sold in 1864 at public auction to Sarah Ellen Pearré, his daughter, for \$7,043. A formal deed was made in 1866.<sup>2</sup>

Sarah Ellen Pearré appears to have initially resided in her father's old house situated near the county line. Around 1870, she married Thomas Grunwell, and the two constructed the subject building on the old Pearré estate, fronting directly on the Comus Road.

The property had been mortgaged by Sarah Ellen Pearré (prior to her marriage) to her brother George in 1865.<sup>3</sup> Sarah and Thomas Grunwell were unable to repay this debt and were forced to convey the property to George Pearré.<sup>4</sup> The couple continued to occupy the house, which is shown on the Hopkins Atlas of 1878 under the name "Thomas Grimmel". Upon the death of George A. Pearré in 1884, the property was put up for sale at public auction. There, Thomas Grunwell purchased the house and a 120 1/4 acres for \$2,607.<sup>5</sup>

Thomas Grunwell sold the farm in 1895 to Claude O. Cooley, who the following year conveyed it to Zachariah G. Cooley.<sup>6</sup> Zachariah Cooley sold the farm in 1904 to George F. Cooley, and the property remained in the Cooley family until 1945 when the house and acreage were conveyed to Elmer and Hazel Pusey.<sup>7</sup> The property was purchased by the present owner in 1965.

## FOOTNOTES:

1 Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records, Will JWS 1/160 (made March 29, 1864).

2 Montgomery County Land Records, EBP29/422 (Sept. 3, 1866).

3 Ibid., EBP 2/36, (Feb. 23, 1865).

4 Ibid., EBP 11/220, (Dec. 20, 1873).

5 Ibid., JA 49/34 (public sale June 7, 1884).

6 Ibid., JA 55/192, (Sept. 29, 1896).

Ibid., 178/480 (Sept. 24, 1904); 982/137 (Sept. 6, 1945).

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Montgomery County Land Records  
 Montgomery County Equity Records  
 Montgomery County Orphan's Court Records  
 Martinet & Bond Map of 1865  
 Hopkins Atlas of 1878  
 CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 126.8407 acres

**VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION****LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES**

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mike Dwyer

Mark Walston

Architectural Description

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Sugarloaf Regional Trails

7/79

STREET &amp; NUMBER

TELEPHONE

Box 87

926-4510

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Dickerson

Maryland 20753

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust  
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
 (301) 267-1438

## MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

M: #10-74

1600745604

## INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Thomas Grimmell House

AND/OR COMMON

**2 LOCATION**

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Rte. 95 (Mountain Road)

CITY, TOWN

Comus

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Montgomery

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

## CATEGORY

☒ DISTRICT  
☒ BUILDING(S)  
☐ STRUCTURE  
☐ SITE  
☐ OBJECT

## OWNERSHIP

☒ PUBLIC  
☒ PRIVATE  
☐ BOTH  
**PUBLIC ACQUISITION**  
☐ IN PROCESS  
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

## STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED  
☐ UNOCCUPIED  
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS  
**ACCESSIBLE**  
☐ YES: RESTRICTED  
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED  
☒ NO

## PRESENT USE

☒ AGRICULTURE  
☐ COMMERCIAL  
☐ EDUCATIONAL  
☐ ENTERTAINMENT  
☐ GOVERNMENT  
☐ INDUSTRIAL  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSEUM  
☐ PARK  
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE  
☐ RELIGIOUS  
☐ SCIENTIFIC  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

C.M. Himes/Judge Gallagher

Telephone #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

Kentsdale Road

CITY, TOWN

Potomac

VICINITY OF

Maryland

STATE, zip code

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Montgomery County Courthouse

Liber #:

Folio #:

STREET &amp; NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Rockville

STATE

Maryland

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

**7 DESCRIPTION**

<b>CONDITION</b>		<b>CHECK ONE</b>	<b>CHECK ONE</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED      DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

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DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This is a three-bay farmhouse, untypical of others in the area. The door is in the SE bay, and a one-story wing extends east from this corner. The first story across this main (south) facade is shaded by an open porch with squared columns. Windows are 6/6, and there are molded architraves around each of them. The cornice is returned, and there are pairs of half-sized windows in each gable end. A pair of large chimneys emerge from the center of the roof ridge. Present siding is aluminum.

A barn and other buildings are nearby.

M:10-74

# SIGNIFICANCE

## PERIOD

☐ PREHISTORIC  
☐ 1400-1499  
☐ 1500-1599  
☐ 1600-1699  
☒ 1700-1799  
☐ 1800-1899  
☐ 1900-

☐ ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC  
☐ ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC  
☐ AGRICULTURE  
☐ ARCHITECTURE  
☐ ART  
☐ COMMERCE  
☐ COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

☐ COMMUNITY PLANNING  
☐ CONSERVATION  
☐ ECONOMICS  
☐ EDUCATION  
☐ ENGINEERING  
☐ EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT  
☐ INDUSTRY  
☐ INVENTION

☐ LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE  
☐ LAW  
☐ LITERATURE  
☐ MILITARY  
☐ MUSIC  
☐ PHILOSOPHY  
☐ POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

☐ RELIGION  
☐ SCIENCE  
☐ SCULPTURE  
☐ SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN  
☐ THEATER  
☐ TRANSPORTATION  
☐ OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Appears as house of Thomas Grimmel on Hopkins' 1878 Atlas.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY



# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

M:10-74

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY \_\_\_\_\_

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

## 11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Michael F. Dwyer, Senior Park Historian

ORGANIZATION

M-NCPPC

DATE

4/23/74

STREET & NUMBER

8787 Georgia Ave.

TELEPHONE

589-1480

CITY OR TOWN

Silver Spring

STATE

Maryland

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The Shaw House, 21 State Circle  
Annapolis, Maryland 21401  
(301) 267-1438

# THE MARYLAND NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION

M.10-74

## FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See correspondence dated June 12, 1984

### ACTION TAKEN

The following sites have been reviewed and found not suitable for regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. Those sites also listed on the Locational Atlas will no longer be subject to regulation under the Moratorium on Alteration and Demolition.

#### Site No.

10/2		23/70
10/9		23/98-1
10/11		24/12
10/22		24/14
10/25		24/15
10/54		25/1
10/71		25/10-1
10/73	15/68	27/5
	15/69	27/7
10/74	16/19	*27/11
11/8	*17/4	*27/13
12/14-1	17/55	28/15
12/16	18/1	28/26
12/26	18/9	30/3
	18/22	30/7
13/15	18/27	30/9
13/16	18/29-1	30/15
13/28	19/8	30/17
13/32	19/18	30/19
	19/20	31/9
14/1	20/6	33/3
14/15	20/14	33/5
14/18	20/27	33/11
14/19	22/5	*34/1
14/23	22/6-1	*34/9
14/30	22/18	
14/31	22/21	
14/40	22/22	
14/48	22/23	
14/54	22/24	
15/10	23/13	
15/11		
15/18		
*15/62		

#### Site No.

35/6  
36/9  
\*37/4

\*Recommended for designation by the Mont. Co. Historic Preservation Commission.

\*\*These sites were previously considered by the County Council and found not to warrant regulation under the Historic Preservation Ordinance. They are listed here to bring the functional Master Plan in conformance with Council's actions.



NAME Ri # 10-74 THOMAS GRIMMEL HOUSE  
LOCATION Rt 95 (COMUS Rd) COMUS, Md  
EACADE SW  
PHOTO TAKEN 4/23/74 MDWYER